

Trustees Minutes

June 7, 2022

AGENDA

1. Public Comment
2. Library Update
3. Next year's proposed meeting schedule

In Attendance

1. Ria23 – From the Public
2. Kaija Langley
3. Nancy Wood
4. James Roosevelt
5. Jason Yee
6. Karen Kosko
7. Muna Kangsen
8. Maria McCauley
9. Jannet Stevens

1. Public Comment

Public comment was by Ria23 said that she heard that the garage next door to Central Square Library has drug deals going on there.

Regarding public comment from Ria23,

Jason said he has not seen any evidence of drug dealing at CSQ

Nancy said- People sleep, camp out/ pass out there. Due to location of shelters and services near the library, that could be a reason why they hang out there.

Central Square Library Study

Part I completed, looking at structure

Maria shared that the current study is looking at the structure of the Central Square Branch and then will include a building program study for what the library needs are for residents who live in the vicinity.

There were no minutes to approve for May.

2. Library Updates

Branch Expansion (58 additional hours per week not including Sundays) continues

This summer Collins will go from four days of service with one night to five days of services with 3 nights. We currently have 3 vacancies at CSQ, however, CSQ will get an additional night which will put them at a total 6 days of service and 3 nights.

Hiring

70 positions filled, 16 open positions

Library Budget

\$17 Million Approved, including a new full time Youth Services Manager position

January two more positions will be added in the area of digital equity and communications

Library Auditorium

Improvements paused, need capital funding

Trustee Search

Recommendations submitted to City Manager

Staff Development Day this Friday, June 10

Program Updates

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

STEAM

In The Hive, we continued to host our virtual and in-person Hive Safety Training workshops along with introductory equipment training workshops. We partnered with City of Cambridge Community Development Department to welcome small business owners and entrepreneurs. *STEAM Academy: iFp Robots That Make a Difference* students wrapped up their term with an expo showcasing prototypes of assistive robots. *STEAM Academy: iFp Studio* students hosted a summit gathering close to 50 local leaders to discuss equitable access to education and career opportunities in Cambridge.

Program Statistics:

Total Public Programs - 64

Total Public Program Attendance - 304

Total Engagement Visits - 1

Total Group Visit Attendance – 11

Adult Services

In Adult Services we continued with several of our program series. The Wellness for Seniors series had been held weekly since November through May and will be taking a break during the summer. Navigating Solo focused on the topic of Evaluating Living Options. Cambridge Room Lectures Series held a lecture on the topic of The Beauty of Book Binding and Decoration: Linked Spine Bindings. As for the Career Skills Workshop series, we held three workshops covering topics on Tips for a Successful Virtual Interview, Changing Careers, and The Art of Networking. We held four book groups at Main.

Total Public Programs: 13

Total Attendance: 324

Programming & Events

The Communications department held 6 programs in May including:

- Afghani author, Homeira Qaderi
- Author, Robert Kuttner (in collaboration with Harvard Bookstore)
- Poets Yanyi and Victoria Chang (In celebration of AAPI Month)
- Exploring Alternative Medicine
- Haitian Flag Day (in collaboration with the Mayor's Office, CPSD, City Manager's Office)

Program Statistics:

187 Patrons attended the Communication Department events in May.

Youth Services

In youth services at the Main Library, we've been doing five outdoor programs a week (four songs and stories and one Baby Lapsit program). Beginning in June we are going to start offering our weekly preschool story time inside in the Rey Room on Tuesday afternoons. In May, we've been busy planning for summer reading and starting to spread the word as we visit our preschools and schools. One special outreach event to note: This May, for the first time since 2019, we were able to host the Donnelly Field Story Walk with our partners, the Agenda for Children Literacy Initiative and the Center for Families. We gave away books, pizza, and did story and movement activities with 242 people and everyone had the best time!

Total Public Programs - 22

Total Public Program Attendance - 994

Total Group Visits (preschool and school visits to the library or librarians to those sites) - 15

Total Group Visit Attendance -438

Branch Services

Boudreau:

Our reading dog Ana returned in May. Our young patrons were very happy to see her.

Central Square:

The 23rd Annual Youth Poetry Awards were held in person for the first time since 2019. We received nearly 800 entries from kids in grades K to 8. In all, the students came from 24 schools in Cambridge, public and private. We're hoping to have the winning poems, with pictures of the poets when we have permissions, to be linked to our website soon.

Collins:

The Collins Branch continues to have popular standing programming including story times for children and two adult book groups. This month, all programs took place in the outdoor courtyard instead of virtually which was a welcomed transition.

O'Connell

Continuing with our Fiber Arts Drop-In Group for adults, all levels, monthly Adult Book Group, two Outdoor Story-times for young kids.

O'Neill:

We had a big "open house" series of programs on May 3rd for our first open Tuesday and had 109 people participate in various open house activities. We hosted our first Saturday programs: Haitian Flag Day Storytime on May 14th, and 8 people came. Dinoman Presents Dinosaurs on May 21st, with 126 attendees

Valente:

The Valente Branch Community Room is open once again for booking by nonprofit agencies and City partners. We hosted 9 groups in May. The **Reading Together book group** went deep into their discussion of works by Asian American authors, covering issues of identity, authorship and lived experiences. This meets monthly and follows the themes of the Library's yearlong reading challenge.

JUNE PROGRAMS

STEAM

In addition to our regular program offerings in The Hive, special programs include:

- Groups of 5th grade students from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School will visit The Hive on Mondays and Fridays throughout the month
- Piloting WGBH's Design Squad Maker activities designed to promote family engagement in hands-on STEAM making
- Hosting CPL Foundation's Scribe Society in a morning of creative making

STEAM Academy wraps up for the academic year. We will partner with CPS' Birth Through Third Grade Partnership to showcase STEAM Kits to early childhood educators.

Adult Services

- Navigating Solo
- Cambridge Room Lecture Series
- Contemporary Book Group
- Rediscover MBTA for Seniors
- Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services
- Summer Reads Panel

Programming and Events

The Communications Department hosted Malinda Lo, the author of *The Last Night* at the Telegraph Club, at the Main Library on June 1. The program was in celebration of PRIDE and was attended by 40 patrons. We also hosted author Katie Kitamura on June 2. The program, which was initially scheduled to take place in May as part of our Asian American Pacific Islander Awareness Month program, was rescheduled to June because Kitamura took ill. The program was attended by 23 patrons. In June, we launched our popular Yoga on the Lawn with Cap Aguilar series which meets every Saturday in June, from 10:15-11:30 a.m. The first session, which took place on June 4, had 30 participants.

Branch Services

Boudreau:

This month we will be hosting a miniature therapy horse. We will also have a visit from storyteller Valerie Tutson in honor of Juneteenth.

Central Square:

June 9th from 6 to 9 p.m. the branch will be hosting 5 events for the Boston Lit Crawl which will be happening in and around Central Square this year. The Mayor will read a Juneteenth story for the June 16th Storytime, and the branch will host storyteller, Valerie Stevens and the Albino Mbie Band for a Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday June 18th. Beginning June 6, the Children's Room will be hosting Storytimes at the Central Square Farmer's Market and with the Audubon Society at Magazine Beach.

Collins:

Branch continues to foster connections with local neighborhood groups including the Haggerty School and the Cambridge Water Department. The Branch has also welcomed a new 30-hour Library Assistant who brings a wealth of experience from their time with CPL.

O'Connell

New events are the Graphics Are Great virtual book group for kids, and a monthly STEAM program - with the May theme being LEGO play time.

O'Neill

June 14th, Haitian Folkloric Dance with Jean Appolon Expressions. June 18th, Flying High Dogs. June 21st, Juneteenth Storytelling with Valerie Tutson

Valente

In June, we're kicking off **Patio Projects**, a monthly STEAM-focused program for all ages, using the outdoor space in front of the Branch. June's Patio Project invites folks to explore gravity through various media.

Friends Secret Garden Tour

Nancy, Maria and Kaija had an awesome garden tour where Friends of CPL raised over \$50,000.

FY23 MEETING DATES - All due on Tuesday, at 5:00PM

- September 13
- October 11
- November 1
- December 6
- January 10, 2023
- February 7
- March 7
- April 4
- May 2
- June 6